(b) the total number of MIG jets that have crashed during the last three years, year-wise; and

(c) whether there is some common cause for so many MIGs crashing during the period; if so, the details thereof, and the steps taken to avoid such air crashes involving MIGs?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) A MIG-21 aircraft crashed on 4th January, 2005 at Air Force Station, Nal (Rajasthan). The aircraft caught fire while taking off.

(b) During the last three years from 2002-2003 till 2004-2005, the number of MIG-21 crashed were 12, and 2 respectively.

(c) Out of these 19 accidents, 8 aircrafts have crashed due to Technical Defects, 7 due to Human Error (Aircrew), 2 due to Human Error (Servicing). Of the remaining 2 accidents, the cause of one accident remained unresovled while one is under investigation.

The Indian Air Force continuously undertakes measures to enhance and upgrade flight safety. Steps to enhance the quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL) and Original Equipment Manufacturers (OEMs) of concerned countries are also maintained to overcome the technical defects of aircraft.

Defence personnel who lost their lives in Tsunami

202. SHRI LALIT SURI: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of defence personnel including those of Coast Guard who lost their lives due to havoc caused by Tsunami waves in the Indian Ocean on 26th December, 2004, in Andaman Nicobar Islands, Tamil Nadu, Andhra Pradesh, Pondicherry and Kerala, force-wise and area-wise;

(b) the number of defence personnel, force-wise and area-wise who have since been missing as a result of the Tsunami of December, 2004; and

(c) how the cases of salary, family pension and other dues payable in respect of those missing have been/are proposed to be decided?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI PRANAB MUKHERJEE): (a) and (b) The details of the Defence personnel (force-wise) who lost their lives and are reported missing on account of Tsunami disaster area-wise are given below:

(i) Andaman and Nicobar Island

Name of the Force	No. of personnel	
	Dead	Missing
Army	Nil	Nil
Navy	Nil	Nil
Air Force	7	4
Coast Guard	Nil	Nil
Military Engineering Service	Nil	1

(ii) One civilian (Group 'D') of the Coast Guard is reported to have lost his life in Chennai.

(iii) The number of Defence personnel dead/missing in the other affected States/Union Territories is reported to be "Nil".

(c) The payment of salary/family pension and other benefits for the next of the kin of the missing defence personnel are decided as per extant norms.

Compensation paid to farmers of J&K border areas

203. SHRI T.S. BAJWA: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the answer to Starred Question 232 given in the Rajya Sabha on 21st July, 2004 and state:

(a) what are the tehsil-wise details of the total amount paid as *ex-gratia* crop/rental compensation to the farmers of Jammu and Kashmir border areas whose land are under occupation for operational purposes; and

(b) the number of the farmers since provided or yet to be provided this compensation under this scheme?